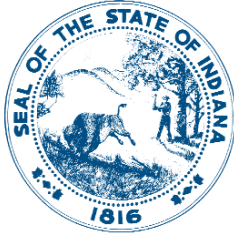


# Scott E. Reske

Indiana State Representative, District 37



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Spring, 2002

Dear Teachers, Students and Parents:

As many of you know, the short session of the 112th General Assembly has ended without any action on tax restructuring or addressing the budget shortfall. I believe that these two issues needed to be solved during the regular session.

House Bill 1004, which addressed these two issues, was passed by the Indiana House and Senate, but with differences that needed to be resolved in a conference committee. Unfortunately, the bill failed in conference committee for political reasons and not because of philosophical differences. Along with many of you, this has left me feeling frustrated and angry; however, I remain determined.

Without tax restructuring, we will all see a significant increase in our property taxes in 2003. Indiana also requires the tax restructuring to attract jobs to the state. In addition, the budget shortfall needs to be addressed to protect the quality of education.

It appears that the Governor will now act to call a special session in May to resolve the tax restructuring issue and the budget shortfall. All legislators should come to the special session with an attitude to solve these issues.

An honest search for good public policy without petty politics is what Indiana now needs. Hoosiers deserve a solution to the current fiscal problems.

Sincerely,

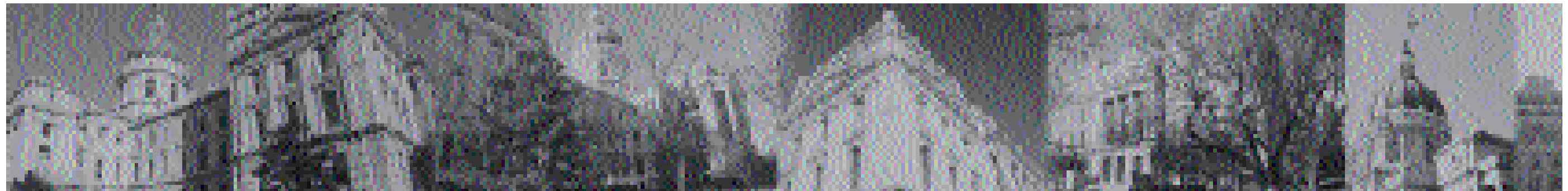


**Inside**

•Anti-terrorism laws

•Protecting children

•Farmers' rights



## New laws protect farmers' rights

During the 2002 session legislators acted to assist farmers burdened by corporate lawsuits of patent infringement by contamination of crops. Lawmakers filed a series of initiatives considered a farmer's bill of rights.

While not everything in this package became law, several important measures did succeed. Third party testing will be required on seed samples taken from a farmer's land. This third party will be present to verify that both parties receive samples, help ensure valid testing and stop incidents of trespassing.

In the months ahead, advocates for farmers' rights will be working with interested parties on several important issues, such as protecting farms from inadvertent pollen drift or contaminated seed, and providing repayment of court and attorney fees for farmers found innocent in seed lawsuits.



REP. RESKE  
ADDRESSES THE HOUSE.

## Legislature stands together on public safety laws

### Lawmakers act against terrorism, other threats

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, officials across the country took a serious look at the ability of local emergency systems to respond to a similar threat.

House Bill 1001 establishes a Counter-Terrorism and Safety Council (C-TASC) to serve as the coordinating state agency for emergency management response to terrorist acts. The council will develop anti-terrorism strategy, including placing an affiliate of the council in each county, coordinating efforts with the U.S. Office of Homeland Security, and implementing counter-terrorism training in the state law enforcement academy.

Part of a \$1.25 BMV service charge will be used to develop a wireless public safety system to help connect

agencies across the state in case of an emergency. A portion of the service charge will also be used to alleviate the state police

crime laboratory backlog.

The law includes penalties for several terrorist and public safety issues, including:

- money laundering to support terrorist activities
- restrictions on the issuance of hazardous materials endorsements
- penalties concerning regulated explosives or devices
- disorderly conduct on airport premises.

While no one foresaw the devastation of the September attacks, we are taking every step possible to maintain Indiana's safety to the fullest extent.



### Improvements to the Sex Offender Registry

A new law expands the sex offender registry by requiring offenders to register with the sheriff in the county in which they reside, and that county sheriffs jointly maintain a sex offender registry Website containing the photograph, address and other information about an offender. Senate Bill 367 provides that one person shall have direct responsibility for the registry, and makes defacing a copy of the registry a crime.

### Reske honors Anderson medical group



I was pleased to honor this group of Anderson medical personnel for their service to thousands of Haitians. Members came from St. Mary's Church of Anderson, St. Ambrose, Whetstone Church of Christ, Central Christian Church and Maple Grove Church of God.

## Child protection remains a top legislative priority

The Amber Alert program, set forth in Senate Bill 20, establishes a missing child network. This network includes a toll-free telephone line to report missing children, a clearinghouse of investigative information and agreements with local television stations to broadcast information about a missing child.

Legislators took several steps against sexual predators. Senate Bill 482 toughens laws against soliciting a child over the Internet. This law also makes it a crime to fondle oneself in front of a child. House Bill 1010 applies existing state laws dealing with child exploitation, possession of child pornography and obscenity to digital images.



REP. RESKE DISCUSSES LEGISLATION  
WITH REPS. CLAIRE LEUCK  
(D-FOWLER) AND PEGGY WELCH  
(D-BLOOMINGTON).

## Where did the surplus go?

I am frequently asked what happened to the budget (1999-2001). More than half was never collected or given back as tax cuts. The rest was invested on "needed" items.

### 1999-2001 Surplus

\$1.3 billion: tax cuts

\$290 million: teachers' pensions

\$200 million: local roads

\$155 million: state infrastructure

\$162 million: university capital and technology

## Telephone Privacy List still available

If you haven't yet registered for the Telephone Privacy List, you still have time. Although the list is already in effect, it is updated every three months. If you register now, your name will be included when the updated list takes effect July 1, 2002.

The Telephone Privacy List is free to Indiana residents. By adding your name, most telemarketers will be prevented by law from calling you. You only need to register once to be included.

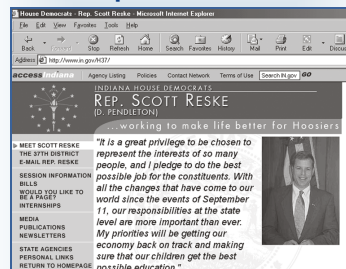
### How to register

You may register by calling the toll-free number, 1-888-834-9969. You may also register online at the Attorney General's Website. Go to [www.in.gov/attorneygeneral](http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral) and click on the ringing phone icon.

### Certain exceptions

Registering with the Telephone Privacy List will not eliminate all telemarketing calls. Four types of solicitors are exempt from the law: Charitable organizations using volunteers or employees to make calls; newspapers using employees to make calls; insurance agents; and realtors.

Stay informed about this  
and other issues online  
with Representative Reske



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